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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated.

NEW INSTITUTES FORMED;
FREE BALLOON ETS ALTITUDE RECORD

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FORMS NEW INSTITUTES -- Izvestiya, No 27, 3 Feb 49

The annual meeting of the Academy of Sciences USSR was held in Moscow on 2 February. It was announced that in 1948 the Academy of Sciences USSR was enlarged by the addition of the following institutes: the Institute of Chemistry of Silicates, the Institute of High Molecular Compounds, the Institute of Precision Mechanics and Calculator Techniques, the Marine Hydrophysics Institute, and the Petroleum Institute.

SCIENTISTS RECEIVE AWARDS -- Vechernayaya Moskva, No 106, 5 May 49

Two gold medals and two prizes for outstanding work in science were presented today at a session of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Academician B. A. Vvedenskiy (radiophysics and radio engineering) received the Gold Medal imeni A. S. Popov for 1949. The Gold Medal imeni B. V. Dokuchayev for 1948 was awarded posthumously to Professor S. A. Zakharov (soil science). Corresponding Member N. I. Akhiezer of the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR received the Prize imeni P. L. Chebyshev for work in mathematics. Ye. N. Shchukin, known for his research in the northern Urals, received the Prize imeni A. D. Arkhangel'skiy for 1948 for his work in geology.

BALLOON JUMP SETS RECORD -- Patriot Rodiny, No 35, 1 May 49; Vechernyaya Moskva, No 101, 29 Apr 49

The following data has been published on the record-breaking balloon ascent of 12,100 meters made by the free balloon USSR VP-79 on 27 April 1968:

The ascent began at 0528 from the airfield of Main Administration of Hydrometeorological Service, Soviet of Ministers USSR.

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The balloon rose 3,000 meters in the first 20 minutes, the rate of ascent up to this point being 1.5-2 meters per second. The crew, A. F. Krikun and P. P. Polosukhin, then put on oxygen masks. The ascending speed increased to 6 meters per second. The balloon first went in a northeastern direction, and then in a southerly direction, toward Moscow. At 6,900 meters the balloon travelled in a southwesterly direction. At 7,900 meters the gas bag took on a spherical shape. The free ascent continued up to a height of 9,200 meters, where the first zone of equilibrium was reached. Here the crew jettisoned some ballast. The ascent continued at a rate of 2-3 meters per second. At 0700, south of Podol'sk, the balloon reached a height of 12,100 meters. The temperature at this height was 57 degrees below zero. A thick haze was on the horizon, and visibility was more than 60 kilometers.

The rate of descent to 9,500 meters was 1.5-2 meters per second. Then it increased considerably, and the crew was obliged to jettison some equipment and the remaining ballast. The landing was made successfully near the village of Yakshino, Dubenskiy Rayon, Tula Oblast, at 0803.

All navigation instruments which recorded altitude, speed of ascent, and flight curve were turned over to the Sports Commission of the Central Aviation Club USSR imeni V. P. Chkalov.

DASHAVA GAS USED FOR METAL WORK -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 15, 19 Jan 49

The Institute of Electric Welding, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, has investigated the possibilities of using natural gas from Dashava for oxygen cutting of steel and welding of certain nonferrous metals. Preliminary tests have shown that natural gas, having a high calorific value and a sufficient flame temperature, can be used with good results.

The cutting speed was the same as in the case of acetylene, and the cut surface was considerably smoother. The cost of cutting with natural gas is 96-97 percent less than cutting with acetylene. At the same time, natural gas makes working much easier, since it eliminates the expenditure of scarce calcium carbide and the need for constant attention to the gas generator.

KAZAKHSTAN ACADEMY ORGANIZES EXPEDITION -- Krasnaya Zvezda, No 19, 25 Jan 49

The Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR has developed and approved a plan for further study of the resources of the Republic. This year, 166 expeditions are being sent out to the desert of central Kazakhstan and to the Tyan'-Shan' and Altay Mountains to search for new mineral deposits, survey production problems, and study the flora and fauna, and the history of Kazakhstan.

SCIENTISTS STUDY EARTHQUAKES -- Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 82, 24 Apr 49

Soviet scientists are working on a method of predicting earthquakes, according to a statement by Prof M. A. Pavlov of the Moldavian SSR, but as yet have found no sign by which earthquakes can be predicted.

ACADEMICIAN G. O. GRAFTIO DIES -- Izvestiya, No 104, 5 May 49

Academician G. O. Graftio, a pioneer in Soviet hydroelectric power, has died. Graftio participated in the construction of the Svir GES and was a leading participant in the GOELRO plan. An Active Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR since 1936, he held the Order of Lenin and the Order of Labor Red Banner.

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